

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, today held a hearing on the important role small businesses play in securing the nation's cyberspace.

"If we really want to identify potential challenges and solutions to America's cybersecurity, we need to bring small businesses to the table," said Rep. Sanchez. "Many small firms contribute to the creation of secure cyber systems in the private sector. That knowledge could and should be drawn from as we develop national cybersecurity policies."

At the hearing, Rep. Sanchez also discussed institutional barriers that prohibit small businesses from competing with larger vendors for public sector contracts.

"Innovation takes risk, but these risks can be costly for small businesses," Rep. Sanchez continued. "Small firms need guidance and added incentives if they're going to continue to develop innovative new technologies. The Department of Defense should do more to incorporate small businesses, which form the backbone of America's economy."

A copy of Rep. Sanchez's opening statement is available below:

"Good afternoon. I would like to welcome you all and thank you for joining us here today.

"As Congress looks to develop a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity we will need the perspectives of our private sector, especially our small businesses. I am particularly excited about today's hearing as we were able to bring in small business representatives to discuss their views and gain their inputs to better securing our information systems. Their ability to innovate and create new technologies will be vital in order to successfully protect our information systems.

"Today, the Subcommittee is looking to discuss three main objectives: The small business' view of the cyber challenges facing us today; the technologies your businesses along with others are

pursuing to address these needs; and to also identify systemic barriers for small businesses entering this marketplace. The purpose of this hearing is for Members of this Subcommittee to further develop greater cyberspace expertise and awareness but to also have an open discussion of how Congress can address certain barriers small businesses face while trying to work with the government.

"As our country works hard to improve our economy, I believe expanding opportunities for our small businesses is imperative. Small businesses are a vital component of our economy and the leaders of innovation. For example, small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms, and employ half of all private sector employees. Small businesses have also generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually over the last decade. That truly makes American small businesses the engine of innovation for the nation.

"As this country responds to and develops ways to face the growing challenges of cyber operations, small businesses will play a critical role in the technologies that are implemented. That means that Congress needs to have a better understanding of the role small business will play in our national response to cyber threats, including the potential implications for new and proposed legislation and policies.

"In addition to understanding challenges small businesses may face in working with the DoD, we also need to have a better understanding of the tools available to us for promoting small business research and development, such as the Small Business Innovative Research program. I hope the witnesses will provide the subcommittee with a technical look at cybersecurity and what technology and resources are currently available to further protect our DoD systems.

"Today, we have three witnesses before us: first, we have Mr. John Ricketson. Mr. Ricketson is the Chief Executive Officer of Dejavu Technologies, Inc. Second, we have Mr. Roger Thornton, the Founder and Chief Technical Officer of Fortify Software. And finally, we have Mr. Richard Lee, an independent consultant who just came out of the government sector.

"Once again I would like to thank all of our witnesses for being here today and I look forward to hearing your testimonies. Without objection, we will accept your written statements as part of the official record. I'd also like to remind the witnesses that we'd like for you to briefly sum up your statements, and we will be observing the 5 minute rule for questions from the members.

"I will now yield to the Ranking Member from Florida, Mr. Miller for his opening statement.
Thank you."